

Introduction

During the first years of Lord Baltimore's Province of Maryland, 1633-1681, people who transported themselves or others were rewarded with rights to land—for most of the period, rights to 50 acres per person transported. In the records of the entry and exercise of these rights are the names of the settlers.

When a reading of these records revealed errors and omissions in the published index, *The Early Settlers of Maryland, A Supplement to Early Settlers* was compiled to correct them.

Of its 7200 entries most are of names and events omitted from *Early Settlers*: about 2000 of persons transported by themselves or others; perhaps as many more of persons—some with their masters—who completed their terms of service; the rest of members of families transported. The other entries include clarification of dates and correction of errors in citation, interpretation, and spelling. Errors in spelling were made by both transcribers and indexers; those made by transcribers are retained in parentheses.

Having rights to land, the reward for transporting oneself or others, was not the same as possessing it. Between proving these rights and possessing the land were three steps, represented by three papers: a warrant for a survey; a surveyor's certificate of his survey; and a patent to the land surveyed. As each of these steps cost money, many settlers who were hard-pressed to pay for things they needed immediately such as tools and livestock, assigned—that is, sold—their rights.¹ In the records of these transactions—probates (proofs) and assignments of rights, demands of warrants, certificates of survey, and patents—are the names of the settlers.

The probates and assignments are *of rights for transporting people* not, except a few assignments, of the people themselves. The names of people transported are in the records only as a means of identifying the rights. Indeed, rights often are said to be “called” or “titled” by people's names. For instance, in Patents 11:571 & 579; 10: 324 & 335; 7:80 & 565; & 4:29.

People themselves, or their indentures, also were assigned. Such assignments, records of which are rare, are clearly distinguished from assignments of rights. For instance, on 11 May 1668 John Tully assigned to

Daniel Jennifer Richard Watson *and* the rights for Watson's transportation (Patents 11:337); on 20 October 1662 Job Walton assigned to Thomas Marken a maid servant, Mary Carter, for four years *with* all rights of land belonging to her (Patents 5:538); on 1 March 1659 Thomas Byan assigned to John Elles Jane Montague to serve for four years (Patents 8:498); and on 17 January 1659 William Chapline assigned to William Pyther an indenture whereby Edward Parrish was to serve him for seven years, on 21 January 1656 Pyther assigned it to Richard Gott, and on 20 September 1659 Gott assigned it to Alexander Gordon, his son-in-law (Patents 4:206).

So names of many settlers immediately became names of rights and lived in the records independent of the settlers. Tracing names as rights go from person to person or are used for acquiring land is tracing rights only. Indeed, as many settlers died soon after arriving, some of the names circulating must have been of the dead.

Names of some, on the other hand, continued to denote settlers as well as rights: the names of those who completed terms of service or were issued warrants or certificates or granted patents. Tracing these names is tracing the settlers themselves.

Rights often were assigned several times. For instance, in Patents 5:535 & 8:48; 11:171; and 5:118. Often many years passed between their probate and their use for land. For instance in Patents 10: 362, 372, & 380. Speculators bought them by the dozens and assigned them a few at a time or used them to patent large tracts. For instance in Patents 10:558-571. This circulation of rights explains an old puzzle.

Often in *Early Settlers* and in *A Supplement* a settler appears both to have transported himself and to have been transported by somebody else. If his name is common, the quick explanation is that here are two people with the same name. The less common the name, the less plausible that explanation and the greater the need for another. One name not merely uncommon but unique is that of Andrew White, leader of the Jesuits who came in the *Ark*. For him *Early Settlers* has two entries, one saying that he immigrated, the other that he was transported. The first refers to Patents AB&H:65 and 1:37, in both of which Mr. Ferdinando Pulton (a

1 Lois Green Carr impressed this point on me. Also she identified the Jesuits (below).